

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0533

HENRY A. WAXMAN
33RD DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

July 16, 2013

Mr. Michael P. Huerta
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20591

Dear Administrator Huerta,

I write about an issue of great importance to constituents in the 33rd District of California, which I represent: the future of Santa Monica Airport (SMO).

The Santa Monica Airport is a small, general aviation airport operated by the City of Santa Monica. The airport was first opened in 1917 and is uniquely surrounded by dense residential development on all sides, with some homes as close as 250 feet away.

Due to the airport's close proximity to many homes, residents have had strong concerns about safety, noise and pollution at SMO. I share these concerns and have been fighting for improvements at the airport for many years. In the late 1970's and early 1980's the City attempted to establish caps on aircraft noise and operations, but these ordinances were challenged in lawsuits brought by airport users and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and struck down in court. Parties to the dispute, including the FAA, settled on the condition that SMO develop an Airport Master Plan and Noise Mitigation Project.

The Airport Master Plan resulted in the Santa Monica Airport Agreement, an agreement with the FAA that required the City of Santa Monica to operate the airport until 2015, but recognized the City's authority to reduce airport impacts through limited restrictions on operations.

As we approach the expiration of the 2015 agreement, I ask that FAA officials participate in a forum in Santa Monica with City of Santa Monica officials and members of the community surrounding the airport to discuss options for the future of the airport. Travis Moore of my staff will follow up to schedule a convenient date for the forum. If you have any questions, Travis can be reached at (202) 225 - 3976 or travis.moore@mail.house.gov.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,


HENRY A. WAXMAN
Member of Congress